

A dvocating

permanent families for children



Foster Care Review Board

South Carolina Department of Administration

2016—2017 Activities and
Recommendations

2016 DATA SNAPSHOT



STATS AT-A-GLANCE

- 3,751 CHILDREN ENTERED FOSTER CARE
- 33% OF CHILDREN ENTERING CARE HAD PREVIOUS OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS
- 3,552 CHILDREN LEFT FOSTER CARE
- 45% OF CHILDREN RETURNED HOME
- 22% OF CHILDREN REVIEWED WERE ADOPTED

2016 REVIEWS

- 6,892 REVIEWS HELD
- 4,175 CHILDREN REVIEWED
- 427 REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS

AREAS OF CONCERN

- 33% AGENCY POLICY VIOLATIONS
- 28% LEGAL BARRIERS
- 26% CASE PLAN BARRIERS
- 5% ADOPTION SERVICE DELAYS
- 5% LEGAL HEARINGS NOT HELD TIMELY
- 3% LEGAL HEARINGS NOT HELD

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE 17 MONTHS OR LONGER

- 1,468 CHILDREN
- 54% LEGALLY FREE FOR ADOPTION
- 18% IN CARE FIVE OR MORE YEARS

SC HEART GALLERY

- 3,285 INQUIRIES
- 210 ADOPTION EXHIBITS
- 105 CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHED AND 99 VIDEOTAPED
- 36 VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS
- 53 CHILDREN MATCHED WITH FAMILIES

ADOPTIONS

- 413 FINALIZED ADOPTIONS
- 24% WITHIN 24 MONTHS
- 12% AGE 13 AND OLDER

PEOPLE POWER

- 189 VOLUNTEERS
- 8,643 CASE REVIEW HOURS
- 11,847 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS
- 11 BOARDS COMPLETED SERVICE PROJECTS

2016 REVIEW BOARD OF THE YEAR

- REVIEW BOARD 9E, BERKELEY COUNTY

2016 REVIEW BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

- JOHN SEIGNIOUS, REVIEW BOARD 9A, CHARLESTON COUNTY

Data contained in this annual report represents children reported by the South Carolina Department of Social Services, who remain in foster care at least four consecutive months and are reviewed by the South Carolina Foster Care Review Board.



RECOMMENDATION

The South Carolina Foster Care Review Board is supported by a State Board of Directors appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The State Board meets quarterly and is responsible for reviewing and coordinating the activities of local review boards. It also makes recommendations in an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW FOR FAMILY PRESERVATION CASES

State Board Recommendation

Since 1974, the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) has provided an external, third-party review system for all children residing in foster care in South Carolina. This independent system of accountability has successfully utilized citizen volunteers to promote safe, permanent homes for children in foster care in a timely manner and has increased public awareness regarding issues faced by children and families involved with the child-welfare system.

Given the success of the FCRB's monitoring of the foster care system and its advocacy for permanence for all children, the State Board of Directors recommends external oversight of Family Preservation cases. This oversight might include among other options an independent review system, to ensure immediate and enduring safety for all children within DSS oversight.

SUMMARY OF REVIEWS



6,892

The Review Board analyzes ongoing, comparative data of children in foster care in order to gain a better understanding of the trends impacting the system, as well as future implications related to permanency for each child reviewed.

During calendar year 2016, 44 local review boards held 427 local review board meetings, completing 6,892 case reviews for 4,175 children in foster care. In 2016, there was a 3 percent increase in the number of reviews and the number of children reviewed.

Data regarding entry into foster care for 3,751 children was received from the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) and entered in the Review Board data-management system during calendar year 2016. Local review boards held reviews for 1,926 of these children, while 1,825 children either left foster care prior to a case review, or had not been reviewed as of December 31, 2016. Thirty-three percent, or 1,254 of all children entering foster care in 2016 had at least one previous out-of-home placement.

INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
CHILDREN REVIEWED	3,716	3,475	3,630	4,032	4,175
REVIEWS HELD	5,794	5,876	5,914	6,711	6,892
REVIEW BOARD MEETINGS	405	403	418	424	427
CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	1,565	1,568	1,829	1,838	1,927
CHILDREN RE-ENTERING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	724	403	418	915	970
CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE AND REVIEWED	1,916	1,916	1,676	1,704	1,827

Areas of Concern

12,551

The monthly review process allows local review boards to identify systemic concerns that are barriers to permanence for children in foster care. These system deficiencies, or areas of concern, are items that are not in compliance with federal law, state law or DSS agency policy.

In 2016, local review boards identified 12,551 areas of concern, a 26 percent increase from 2015. DSS policy violations, including case plan barriers, accounted for 59 percent of all areas of concern. The most frequently identified policy area of concern was interested parties not invited (1,072). Legal barriers, hearings not held, and hearings not held timely accounted for 36 percent of all areas of concern. No court order at the time of the review was the most frequently noted legal concern in 2016 (2,487), followed by no timely foster care review (473). Delays in adoption services accounted for 5 percent of all areas of concern.



SUMMARY OF REVIEWS

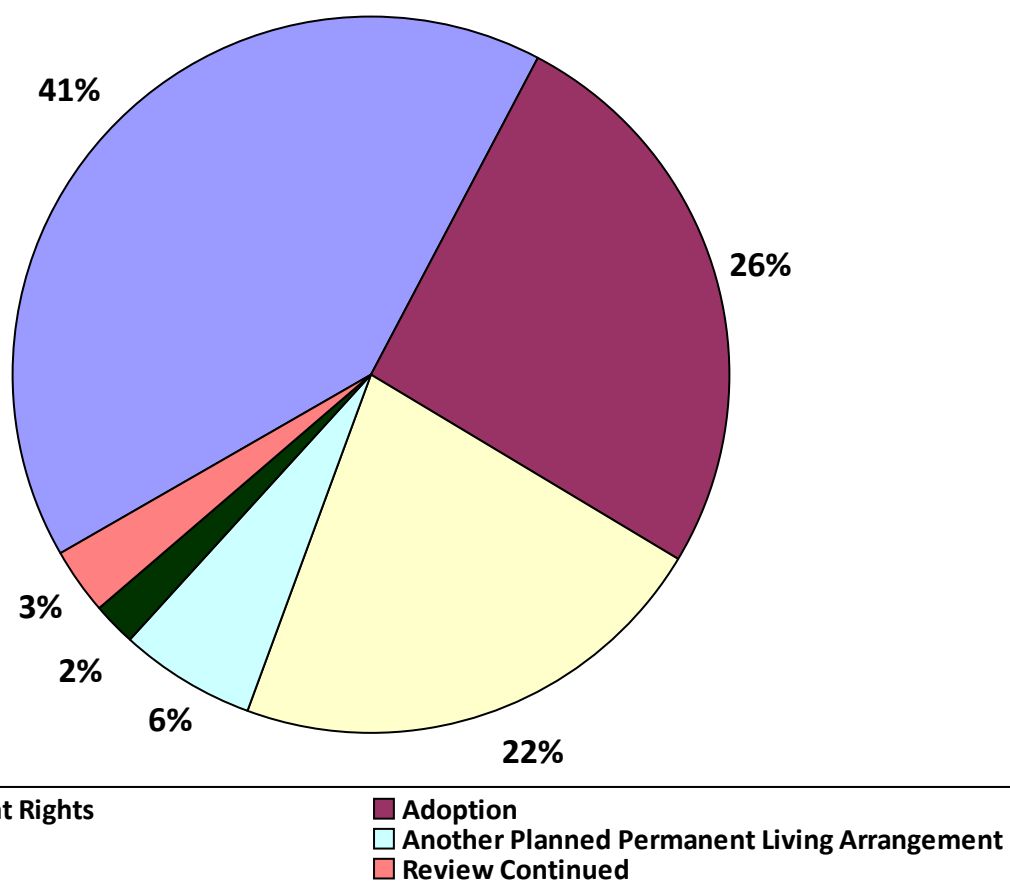
Case Decisions and Recommendations

Local review boards carefully consider input from interested parties prior to issuing a recommendation for each child's case. Interested parties are invited by DSS to attend Foster Care Review Board hearings. Board members are required by statute to consider the most appropriate permanency recommendation possible for each child. Recommendations are sent to the Family Court, DSS, and Guardians ad Litem.

If a required interested party is not invited or if additional information is needed for the board members to make a permanency recommendation, no recommendation is made and the review is continued. Reviews that are continued or not held are rescheduled, usually within three months of the original review date.

The graph below illustrates the percentage and type for each recommendation issued by local review boards at the most recent child specific review in 2016.

Review Board Recommendations



ENTERING FOSTER CARE



3,751

The number of children who entered foster care between January and December 2016 is 3,751. This is slightly higher than in 2015.

Thirty-seven percent of children entering foster care in 2016 entered due to physical neglect, while 32 percent entered care due to abuse. The remaining children entered foster care due to drug exposure/testing positive for drugs (22 percent), reason not reported (7 percent), and abandonment or voluntary placement (2 percent).



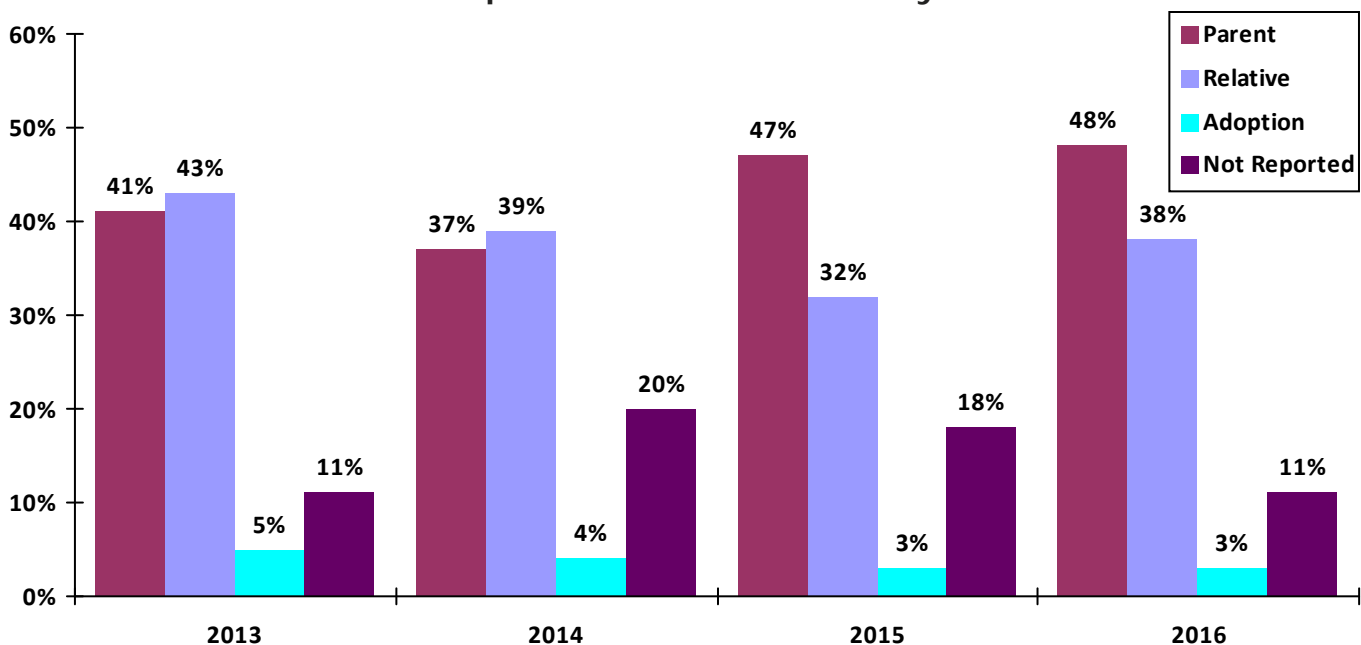
Previous Out-of-Home Placements

1,254

Of the 3,751 children reported to have entered foster care in 2016, 33 percent (1,254) had at least one reported previous out-of-home placement. Of the 1,254, 48 percent entering foster care came from the home of a parent, 38 percent from the home of a relative, and 3 percent from an adoptive home.

The Review Board reports on all out-of-home placements for children who enter foster care because moving from home to home, or coming in and out of foster care, creates additional trauma for a child. The chart below displays prior placement data for the most recent entry to foster care by calendar year.

Placement prior to most recent entry





LEAVING FOSTER CARE

3,552

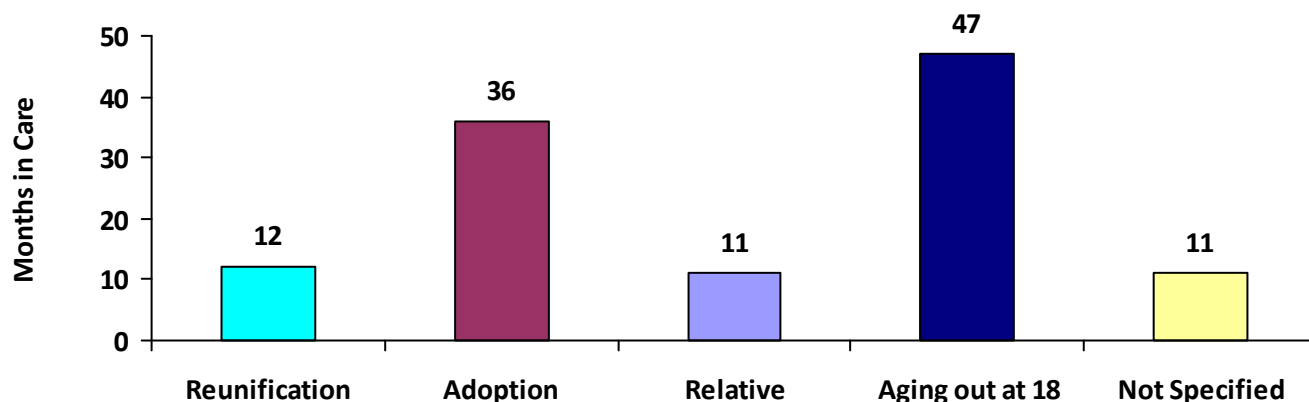
DSS reported that 3,552 children left the foster care system in 2016. Of these 3,552 children, local review boards reviewed 1,827 of these prior to their leaving foster care. The other 1,725 children left the custody of DSS prior to review boards conducting a review.

Returning a child to a parent or finalizing an adoption are the most permanent options for children who leave foster care. In 2016, 65 percent of children reviewed were returned to a parent or had a finalized adoption. The following table summarizes data for all children leaving foster care in 2016.

INDICATOR	ALL CHILDREN	CHILDREN REVIEWED	CHILDREN NOT REVIEWED
CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE	3,552	1,827	1,725
PERMANENCY OUTCOMES			
REUNIFICATION	45% (1,599)	43% (788)	47% (811)
FINALIZED ADOPTION	12% (413)	22% (409)	<1% (4)
OTHER OUTCOMES			
RELATIVE CUSTODY	34% (1,200)	21% (375)	48% (825)
EMANCIPATED OR TURNED 18	7% (255)	13% (236)	1% (19)
OTHER /NOT REPORTED	2% (85)	1% (19)	4% (66)

The graph below compares the average number of months a child remains in foster care based on the reason the child left foster care in 2016.

Number of Months in Care by Reason Left Care



ADOPTIONS

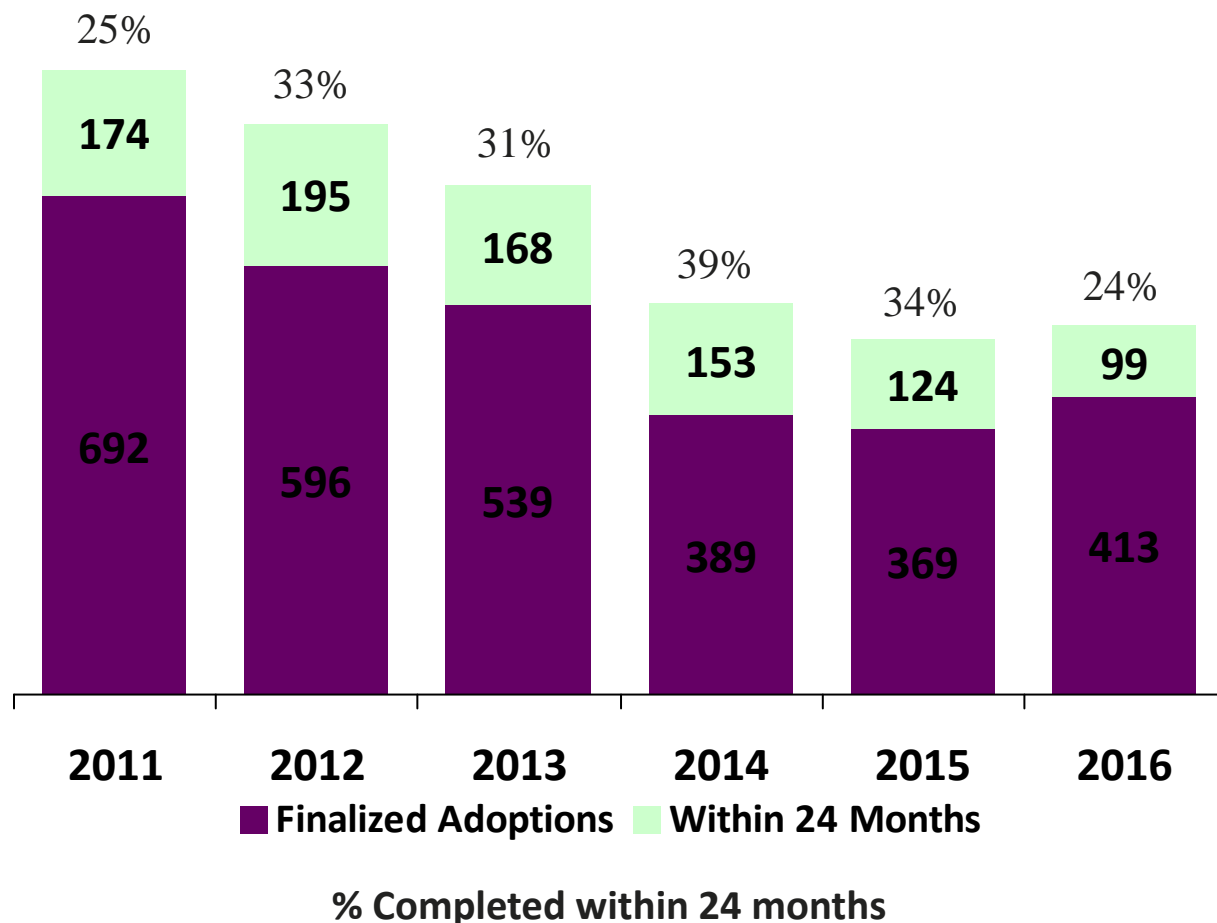


413

Of all children who left foster care in 2016, 12 percent (413) had finalized adoptions; 24 percent (99) of these adoptions were completed within the federal standard of 24 months. That is significantly lower than 2015 and the lowest percentage since 2011. The average length of time a child spends in foster care before a finalized adoption is 36 months.

The average age at adoption was 6.7 years. In 2016, adoptions were finalized for 50 children age 13 and older. Teen adoptions accounted for 12 percent of all finalized adoptions. Positive permanency for older youth should always be a top priority for the child-welfare system in South Carolina.

Finalized Adoptions by Calendar Year





REMAINING IN CARE

1,468

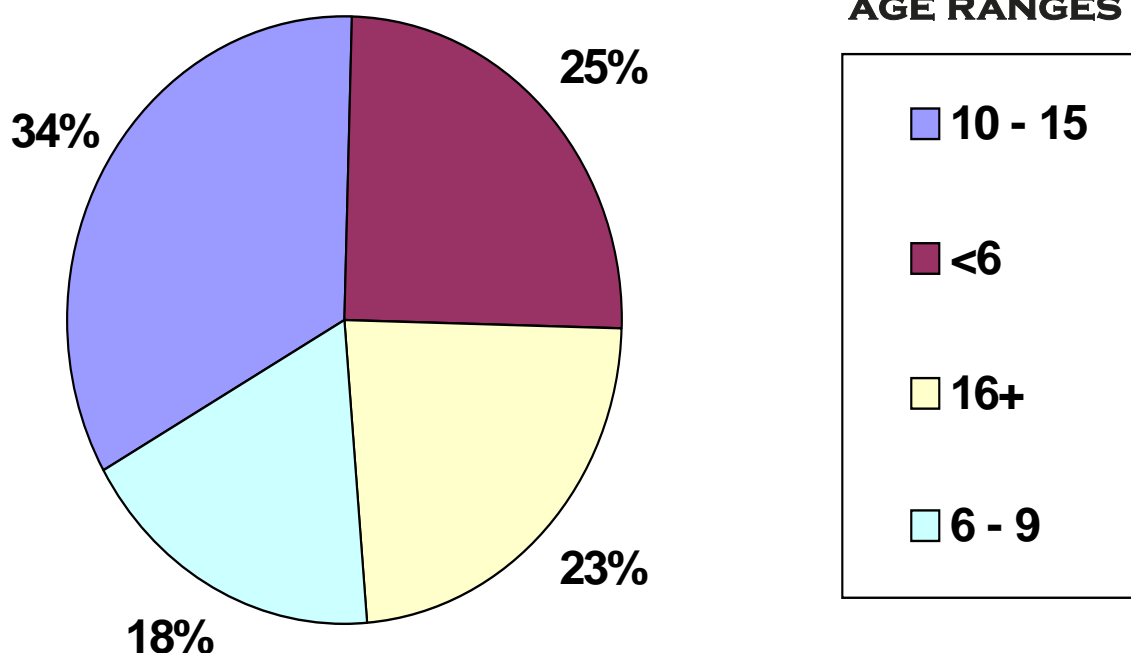
DSS reported to the FCRB that there were 4,124 children in foster care as of December 31, 2016. Of these, 36 percent (1,468) have been in the foster-care system for their most recent foster care entry for 17 continuous months or longer.

Of these children remaining in care 17 months or longer during the reporting period, 54 percent (792) were legally free for adoption. The average length of time in care for these children is 3.9 years, or 47 months. The length of time in foster care ranges from 17 months to 18 years; and 142 children (18 percent) have spent five or more years in foster care.

The graph below illustrates the age break-down for children in foster care for 17 months or longer.

Children in Foster Care for 17 Months or Longer

AGE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016



HEART GALLERY



A photograph captures a moment in time. For children in foster care who are waiting for adoption, a photograph can be the starting point to finding their forever family. A national network of Heart Galleries has embraced this singular mission of using the power of photography to build families for children lingering in foster care.

The South Carolina Heart Gallery (Heart Gallery) recruits local photographers who generously donate their time and talent to capture the spirit and personality through portraits of waiting children for online display and public exhibit space offered by faith communities, libraries, restaurants and other businesses.

The Heart Gallery continues to photograph increasing numbers of waiting children and responds to families who express interest in adopting. As part of a network of state organizations partnering with DSS, the Heart Gallery provides additional intensive recruitment opportunities for individual children, as well as direct services for families, helping increase the number of adoptive families for children seeking forever homes. Heart Gallery staff members assist families by guiding them through the application phase, advocating and supporting them through their journey in becoming a forever home for a child in need, and then completing adoptive home studies.

One of the many volunteer photographers spends the day with the Heart Gallery during an off-site photo shoot. Volunteers are a valuable asset in fulfilling the Heart Gallery's mission.



**Heart
Gallery**
South Carolina TM

2016 STATISTICS:

105	CHILDREN PHOTOGRAPHED
99	CHILDREN VIDEOTAPED
36	VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS
210	PUBLIC EXHIBITS/MEDIA FEATURES
3,285	INQUIRIES RECEIVED FROM FAMILIES INTERESTED IN ADOPTING
53	CHILDREN MATCHED WITH FAMILIES
342	NEW SC FAMILIES INITIATED THE ADOPTION PROCESS
61	HOME STUDIES COMPLETED AND ACCEPTED FOR APPROVAL





HEART GALLERY

In South Carolina,
474 children are legally free
for adoption.



*"A good snapshot stops a moment from
running away."*

Eudora Welty (1909 - 2001)

OUTCOMES BY COUNTY



The following table compares 2016 Review Board data in South Carolina's 46 counties for children reviewed, children entering/re-entering care, children leaving care, and permanency. FCRB considers permanency as a child being returned to a parent or having a finalized adoption. For children who left care but did not achieve permanency, 34 percent (1,200) went to the custody of a relative and 9 percent (340) turned 18, or the reason they left care was not provided.

For children entering and leaving care, these numbers reflect all children reported to the FCRB by DSS. They include children who were reviewed and children that DSS reported leaving care prior to a review being held.

County	Reviews Held	Children Reviewed	# Entered FC	Previous Out-of-Home Placement	# Left FC	Permanency		Other Outcomes	
						% Returned to parent	% Adopted	% Relative Custody	% Other
State Total	6,892	4,175	3,751	33% (1,254)	3,552	45% (1,599)	12% (413)	34% (1,200)	9% (340)
Abbeville	12	9	12	33% (4)	22	41% (9)	9% (2)	36% (8)	14% (3)
Aiken	178	107	65	28% (18)	71	32% (23)	6% (4)	48% (34)	14% (10)
Allendale	8	4	5	0	7	0	15% (1)	72% (5)	14% (1)
Anderson	488	293	206	56% (115)	184	41% (76)	19% (34)	29% (53)	11% (21)
Bamberg	8	4	6	0	3	0	33.3 % (1)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)
Barnwell	56	36	14	29% (4)	19	58% (11)	11% (2)	26% (5)	5% (1)
Beaufort	69	42	56	23% (13)	48	58% (28)	15% (7)	23% (11)	4% (2)
Berkeley	139	87	78	22% (17)	89	54% (48)	8% (7)	29% (26)	9% (8)
Calhoun	18	8	4	50% (2)	2	0	0	0	100% (2)
Charleston	475	283	276	39% (108)	218	41% (89)	10% (22)	37% (80)	12% (27)
Cherokee	114	67	50	30% (15)	45	29% (13)	24% (11)	31% (14)	16% (7)
Chester	33	18	5	80% (4)	5	0	0	60% (3)	40% (2)
Chesterfield	97	51	54	22% (12)	30	33% (10)	7% (2)	33% (10)	27% (8)
Clarendon	58	38	32	22% (7)	29	38% (11)	14% (4)	48% (14)	0
Colleton	82	45	62	45% (28)	60	50% (30)	7% (4)	38% (23)	5% (3)
Darlington	121	76	61	31% (19)	58	33% (19)	29% (17)	26% (15)	12% (7)
Dillon	163	99	92	60% (55)	86	75% (64)	0	23% (20)	2% (2)
Dorchester	110	68	68	40% (27)	70	40% (28)	13% (9)	40% (28)	7% (5)
Edgefield	5	4	13	31% (4)	8	25% (2)	0	75% (6)	0



OUTCOMES BY COUNTY

County	Reviews Held	Children Reviewed	# Entered FC	Previous Out-of-Home Placement	# Left FC	Permanency		Other Outcomes	
						% Returned to parent	% Adopted	% Relative Custody	% Other
State Total	6,892	4,175	3,751	33% (1,254)	3,552	45% (1,599)	12% (413)	34% (1,200)	9% (340)
Fairfield	35	19	10	10% (1)	6	33% (2)	17% (1)	17% (1)	33% (2)
Florence	122	88	102	37% (38)	101	36% (36)	7% (7)	49% (50)	8% (8)
Georgetown	48	37	43	16% (7)	34	32% (11)	3% (1)	59% (20)	6% (2)
Greenville	569	361	331	23% (76)	313	47% (146)	13% (41)	31% (99)	9% (27)
Greenwood	37	25	46	4% (2)	50	42% (21)	0	52% (26)	6% (3)
Hampton	13	5	9	89% (8)	11	64% (7)	0	36% (4)	0
Horry	364	218	182	40% (73)	146	47% (68)	25% (37)	16% (24)	12% (17)
Jasper	25	14	22	9% (2)	21	57% (12)	14% (3)	24% (5)	5% (1)
Kershaw	98	59	40	20% (8)	39	44% (17)	15% (6)	31% (12)	10% (4)
Lancaster	121	70	97	26% (25)	78	20% (16)	6% (5)	71% (55)	3% (2)
Laurens	201	129	91	27% (25)	119	40% (47)	21% (25)	34% (41)	5% (6)
Lee	13	5	3	0	3	100% (3)	0	0	0
Lexington	419	241	193	32% (61)	186	45% (84)	9% (17)	37% (69)	9% (16)
Marion	47	31	30	43% (13)	40	42% (17)	10% (4)	38% (15)	10% (4)
Marlboro	18	12	6	0	15	73% (11)	7% (1)	13% (2)	7% (1)
McCormick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newberry	61	32	22	23% (5)	28	28% (8)	18% (5)	43% (12)	11% (3)
Oconee	248	157	99	40% (39)	72	51% (37)	20% (14)	14% (10)	15% (11)
Orangeburg	119	68	53	4% (2)	60	44% (26)	3% (2)	45% (27)	8% (5)
Pickens	317	183	106	34% (36)	95	37% (35)	19% (18)	28% (27)	16% (15)
Richland	526	329	450	31% (138)	499	49% (246)	5% (25)	36% (181)	10% (47)
Saluda	8	5	3	33% (1)	3	0	33% (1)	67% (2)	0
Spartanburg	865	502	410	34% (139)	327	49% (159)	16% (54)	28% (91)	7% (23)
Sumter	120	80	93	27% (25)	108	65% (70)	5% (5)	22% (24)	8% (9)
Union	9	5	14	36% (5)	10	20% (2)	0	70% (7)	10% (1)
Williamsburg	20	12	13	8% (1)	14	0	14% (2)	79% (11)	7% (1)
York	235	149	124	58% (72)	120	48% (57)	10% (12)	24% (29)	18% (22)

BARRIERS BY COUNTY



The FCRB is statutorily mandated to report on deficiencies in the child-welfare system. One tool for measuring deficiencies is areas of concern. These are defined as non-compliance with federal and state law and/or DSS policy and are identified during the review of a child's case.

The following table summarizes data collected during reviews held in calendar year 2016. The data compares areas of concern in individual counties. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Areas of Concern

County	Total Areas of Concern	Areas of Concern per Child	Case Plan Barriers	Agency Policy Violations	Legal Barriers	Hearings Not Held	Hearings Not Held Timely	Adoption Service Delays
State Total	12,551	3.0	26% (3,294)	33% (4,097)	28% (3,574)	3% (321)	5% (663)	5% (602)
Abbeville	24	2.6	17% (4)	17% (4)	62% (15)	0	0	4% (1)
Aiken	297	2.8	26% (78)	45% (135)	19% (55)	2% (5)	4% (13)	4% (11)
Allendale	10	2.5	70% (7)	0	30% (3)	0	0	0
Anderson	1,224	4.2	28% (342)	42% (510)	21% (261)	3% (38)	4% (46)	2% (27)
Bamberg	29	7.2	42% (12)	24% (7)	17% (5)	0	0	17% (5)
Barnwell	57	1.6	19% (11)	42% (24)	18% (10)	12% (7)	7% (4)	2% (1)
Beaufort	162	3.9	34% (55)	35% (56)	17% (28)	0	3% (5)	11% (18)
Berkeley	200	2.3	21% (42)	35% (71)	26% (52)	1% (2)	7% (14)	10% (19)
Calhoun	47	5.9	21% (10)	41% (19)	23% (11)	0	6% (3)	9% (4)
Charleston	887	3.1	22% (195)	31% (273)	30% (266)	3% (29)	8% (74)	6% (50)
Cherokee	188	2.8	24% (45)	28% (52)	33% (62)	3% (5)	11% (21)	1% (3)
Chester	79	4.4	13% (10)	39% (31)	35% (28)	0	0	13% (10)
Chesterfield	53	1.0	23% (12)	38% (20)	39% (21)	0	0	0
Clarendon	88	2.3	9% (8)	41% (36)	30% (26)	1% (1)	16% (14)	3% (3)
Colleton	142	3.1	26% (37)	18% (26)	29% (41)	10% (14)	4% (6)	13% (18)
Darlington	105	1.4	17% (18)	39% (41)	38% (40)	0	4% (4)	2% (2)
Dillon	112	1.1	41% (46)	13% (14)	43% (48)	0	0	3% (4)
Dorchester	111	1.6	39% (43)	21% (23)	23% (26)	3% (3)	0	14% (16)
Edgefield	19	4.7	26% (5)	21% (4)	26% (5)	0	21% (4)	6% (1)



BARRIERS BY COUNTY

Areas of Concern

County	Total Areas of Concern	Areas of Concern per Child	Case Plan Barriers	Agency Policy Violations	Legal Barriers	Hearings Not Held	Hearings Not Held Timely	Adoption Service Delays
State Total	12,551	3.0	26% (3,294)	33% (4,097)	28% (3,574)	3% (321)	5% (663)	5% (602)
Fairfield	80	4.2	15% (12)	34% (27)	39% (31)	0	5% (4)	7% (6)
Florence	220	2.5	21% (45)	38% (84)	35% (77)	3% (7)	1% (3)	2% (4)
Georgetown	101	2.7	28% (28)	34% (34)	30% (31)	0	2% (2)	6% (6)
Greenville	956	2.6	25% (238)	40% (385)	24% (228)	1% (6)	5% (48)	5% (51)
Greenwood	107	4.3	19% (21)	41% (44)	26% (28)	0	7% (7)	7% (7)
Hampton	20	4.0	20% (4)	25% (5)	35% (7)	0	5% (1)	15% (3)
Horry	269	1.2	19% (52)	41% (111)	33% (89)	1% (3)	1% (2)	5% (12)
Jasper	17	1.2	23% (4)	41% (7)	18% (3)	0	6% (1)	12% (2)
Kershaw	152	2.6	27% (41)	40% (61)	24% (36)	1% (2)	5% (8)	3% (4)
Lancaster	263	3.8	28% (73)	25% (66)	34% (90)	1% (2)	6% (15)	6% (17)
Laurens	315	2.4	36% (112)	35% (109)	21% (66)	<1% (2)	2% (6)	6% (20)
Lee	10	2.0	70% (7)	0	30% (3)	0	0	0
Lexington	756	3.1	23% (175)	24% (185)	33% (248)	6% (44)	7% (53)	7% (51)
Marion	103	3.3	30% (31)	36% (37)	16% (17)	1% (1)	13% (13)	4% (4)
Marlboro	20	1.7	45% (9)	15% (3)	30% (6)	0	0	10% (2)
McCormick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newberry	98	3.0	34% (33)	31% (30)	28% (28)	0	0	7% (7)
Oconee	493	3.1	21% (103)	31% (152)	35% (171)	6% (31)	6% (28)	1% (8)
Orangeburg	109	1.6	32% (35)	36% (39)	9% (10)	0	16% (17)	7% (8)
Pickens	614	3.3	19% (119)	45% (273)	28% (170)	2% (15)	4% (27)	2% (10)
Richland	1,434	4.4	32% (457)	23% (328)	31% (447)	4% (57)	4% (56)	6% (89)
Saluda	8	1.6	25% (2)	50% (4)	0	0	25% (2)	0
Spartanburg	2,031	4.0	27% (545)	32% (654)	30% (600)	1% (28)	6% (127)	4% (77)
Sumter	172	2.1	29% (50)	23% (39)	30% (51)	6% (10)	8% (14)	4% (8)
Union	14	2.8	43% (6)	29% (4)	21% (3)	0	7% (1)	0
Williamsburg	21	1.7	0	52% (11)	34% (7)	0	14% (3)	0
York	334	2.2	33% (112)	18% (59)	37% (124)	3% (9)	5% (17)	4% (13)

AWARDS



The State Board of Directors selects a Review Board and Review Board Member of the Year. Community partners, staff, and Review Board members nominate boards and individual members. The Professional Development and Awards Committee of the State Board reviews all nominations and makes recommendations to the State Board.

Local Review Board 9E: Berkeley County, was selected as the 2016 Review Board of the Year. Review Board 9E Members include **Kathleen Bounds, Gene Coon, David Fitzpatrick, Walter Mitchell, and Randy Shepard**. This board, which has been working together since 2008, is passionate about improving the lives of children in foster care in Berkeley County, while also supporting the DSS staff who serve the children. In 2016, board members contacted a local school district to ensure that a student in need of specific supplies received the proper resources. Additionally, one board member arranged for children in foster care in the county to receive free books from a local store. The board supports the Heart Gallery and has volunteered at and provided snacks for photo shoots. Additionally, the board hosts an annual pizza luncheon to thank the DSS staff for the role they play in supporting the children and youth of South Carolina. As the nomination letter indicated, "These individuals are not only dedicated to doing what's in the best interest for children in the foster care system, but they are also dedicated to each other and are always willing to give a helping hand to one another if needed. I have much respect for these individuals and their commitment and dedication to FCRB, Heart Gallery and the youth of South Carolina."

Review Board of the Year Review Board 9E

Left to right: Coordinator Jessica Haygood, board members Randy Shepard and Gene Coon, State Board Chairperson Jo Hecker, board members David Fitzpatrick and Kathleen Bounds, and FCRB Director Lisa Vosburgh





AWARDS

John Seignious of Review Board 9A: Charleston County, is the 2016 Review Board Member of the Year. Since his appointment on FCRB 9A in September 2012, John has worked tirelessly to become a strong and capable board member. John faithfully attends training opportunities as well as the reviews of Review Board 9A. He has served his board as chairperson and when needed he willingly serves as a substitute for other boards. In 2016, he attended all seven of Review Board 9A's review days as well as subbed 18 other times for other Charleston review boards. The nomination letter for John highlighted the role he has played as a mentor to new board members, saying, "As a new Foster Care Review Board member I was afraid I would say something wrong or not have the heart to make these life-changing recommendations... [John] has taught me a lot and made me comfortable with my part as a team member. He is a knowledgeable, intelligent and kind man. He loves what he does and it shows."

Review Board Member of the Year John Seignious



Left to right:
Coordinator Shallia
Belton, FCRB Director
Lisa Vosburgh, board
member John
Seignious and State
Board Chairperson
Jo Hecker

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS



11,847 Volunteer Hours

In 2016, nearly 200 volunteers contributed 11,847 hours to serve the state of South Carolina. The hours spent reviewing cases and providing additional services to board members' individual communities is highly appreciated by the FCRB Staff and State Board of Directors.

FCRB volunteers are objective, independent reviewers of cases of children in foster care. Local review boards held 427 meetings and spent 8,643 hours reviewing cases for 4,175 children in foster care. The review boards issued Advisory Recommendations to DSS and the Family Court for permanent case plans for each child reviewed and identified areas of non-compliance with DSS policy or statute(s) in each case. Review board members also generously donated an additional 3,204 hours supporting and strengthening services to expedite safe, permanent families for children. Local review boards contributed the following in 2016:

- 11 review boards completed service projects to support programs and events for children in foster care and those who serve them.
- 15 review boards sponsored Heart Gallery exhibits, or donated refreshments and assisted at photo shoots where children who are legally free for adoption had professional photographs taken for adoptive recruitment.
- 11 review boards participated in quarterly meetings with child-welfare partners to discuss trends and issues impacting children in foster care.
- 8 review boards provided quarterly reports or presented the Annual Report to legislators on local review board activities and trends impacting children in foster care.



13D, Greenville, Service Project. Back packs with school supplies and personal hygiene bags



13B, Greenville, board member Jack McCall, Heart Gallery photo shoot



STATE BOARD AND STAFF

STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2nd Congressional District, Richland County
1st Congressional District, Berkeley County
3rd Congressional District, Greenville County
4th Congressional District, Spartanburg County
5th Congressional District, Cherokee County
6th Congressional District, Richland County
7th Congressional District

Jo Hecker, Chairperson
Charles (Chuck) Koches
Dan Bracken
Monica Hill
Martha (Sissy) Brock
Andrea McCoy
Vacant

STATE OFFICE STAFF

Director

Lisa S. Vosburgh

Program Director

Kate Bozik

Program Supervisors

Laurie Davidson

Stephanie Spink

Review Board Coordinators

Shallia Belton

Melissa Burroughs

Doretta Crosson-Irby

Christina Grant

Jessica Haygood

Malory Hogg

Rachel Johnson

Kristin McGill

Chloe Taylor

Latavia Williams

Millie Qualls

Latrice Williams

Amanda Blackmon

Hayley Salley

Kayla Miller

Lola Robertson

Joy Manning

Corlette Minor

Heather Valentine

Heart Gallery Coordinator

Heart Gallery Program Support Specialist

Heart Gallery Recruitment Specialists

Staff Attorney

Statistical/Research Analyst

Administrative Coordinator

Administrative Assistants

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

Advocating Permanent Families for Children



MAILING ADDRESS:

Foster Care Review Board
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 436
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

E-mail: fcrb@admin.sc.gov

Phone: 803.734.0480

Fax: 803.734.1223

Website: <http://fcrb.sc.gov>

VISION

South Carolina will make child well being a top priority by assuring safe, permanent families for all children in foster care.

MISSION

The mission of the South Carolina Foster Care Review Board is to provide external accountability for the foster care system and to advocate on behalf of children in foster care.